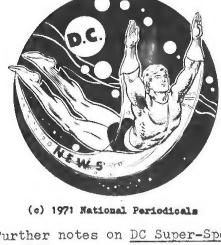
ETCETERA 9



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Further notes on DC Super-Spectacular issues:

Supergirl--final contents are: the 2-part Survival Zone story which brought Supergirl's parents out of the Zone; "The Black Magic Of Supergirl"; Wonder Woman in "Villainy, Inc." a 36 page reprint from WW 28, Mar-Apr 48; Johnny Thunder in "The Black Canary"; Phantom Lady in "Mystery Of The Black Cat" and Merry, Girl Of 1,000 Gimmicks in "Duel Of The Gimmicks".

Flash--The original Flash stars in an unpublished Golden Age story by Infantino-"Tale Of The Three Tokens"; our Flash in "Gauntlet Of Super-Villains" and "The Weather Wizard Blows Up A Storm"; Kid Flash in "The Face Behind The Mask"; Johnny Quick in "The Modern Paul Bunyan" circa 52; The Metal Men in "Flaming Doom" from Showcase 37 (their debut & origin); and Quicksilver (Quality's man of mystery) in an untitled story which pits him against a murderer called The Wasp (no resemblence folks).

The first issue of Ghosts sold well.

There are 2 new Legion stories in the works. The first will appear in Superboy 183. The art is by Tuska & Colletta.

The Deadman reprint for Brave & Bold 100 is "Hide And Seek" from Strange Adventures 210.

Doug Wildey has done an Unknown Soldier story. Reprints in Star Spangled War will rotate between Enemy Ace and Balloon Buster.

Frank Frazetta's Tomahawk story entitled"Black Cougar" is being reprinted in number 138. It originally appeared, I believe, in number 57.

That issue of Tomahawk also includes a rather strange Hopalong Cassidy reprint. Turn to Coming Comics for details.

Kubert will no longer do the intros for Weird War Tales after the third issue.

Adventure 415 will feature a 12-page Supergirl story drawn by Win Mortimer with inks by Oskner.

Frank Robbins has drawn another story of Batman. It will appear in the December release of Detective and is entitled "Forecast For Tonight-Murder!"

Dave Cockrum has drawn a World Of Krypton feature for the December release of Superman. The title is "All In The Mind".

Abra-Kadabra returns in an up-coming Flash story.

The Superboy Super-Spectacular will probably contain stories of The Teen Titans, Star Spangled Kid, Kid

ETCETERA 9, NOVEMBER 1971. Published monthly (around the 20th) by Paul Levitz, 393 East 58 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11203. Single copy = 30¢ + postage. Subscription rates: 3 for $1. Back issues: 1,5,6,8 - 25¢ each. 2-4 - 20¢ each. Make all checks payable to Paul Levitz!

Eternity, Star Spangled Kid, and Little Boy Blue.

Marvel News follows the DC Coming Comics listing...

COMING COMICS

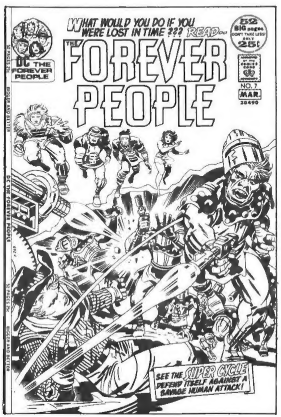
OUR ARMY AT WAR (240, January). Sgt. Rock in "24 Hour Pass". Easy Co. must blow up a munitions factory located within a toy factory. Plus--"Rita, A Truck". The war through the eyes of a truck? Art by Andru and Esposito. "Last Shot Of The Trigger Fish", a sunken submarine strikes a last blow for the war effort. Art by Kubert. Plus a special feature on Communications. On sale on or about November 2.

WONDER WOMAN (198, February). This is another Dorothy Woolfolk edited reprint issue. The reprints are all Sekowsky work. On sale on or about November 2.

FALLING IN LOVE (128, January). On sale on or about November 2.

DC SUPER-SPECTACULAR (DC-8, February). BATMAN (238, The cover of this issue is a wrap-around job by Neal Adams. Contents for this issue are: Batman in "Mr. Roulette's Greatest Gamble!" (from Batman 75) and "Masterminds Of Crime!" (from Batman 70); "The Doom Patrol" in their origin story from My Greatest Adventure 80; The Legion Of Super-Heroes in "The Legion Of Super-Outlaws"; Plastic Man tracks down his alter-ego, The Eel; Aquaman in "The Aqua-Theif Of The Seven Seas"; Sargon in an untitled story with art by Kubert; and a previously unpublished story of the Golden Age Atom--"Danger In The Totem's Eye". On sale on or about November 4.

GHOSTS (3, February). Stories this issue are "Beath Is My Mother", "Dark Goddess Of Doom", "Legion Of The Dead"; and "The Screaming Skulls". Reprinted in this issue are: "The Magician Who Haunted", "Station Ghost",&"Ghostly Miners". On sale on or about November 4.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MISTER MIRACLE
SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST
INTRODUCING: MISTER MACHINE
VILLAIN OR HERO YOU DECIDE!

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PHANTOM STRANGER (17, February). "Like A Ghost From The Ashes" is a special love story about The Phantom Stranger. It introduces Cassandra Craft, his girlfriend. Story by Len Wein, art by Jim Aparo. The coloring on this 20-odd page story is supposed to be exceptional. Also in this issue is an 8-page Dr. 13 reprint--"Suicide Tower" and a 4-page non-series reprint, "I Was A Victim Of Black Magic". On sale on or about November 9.

TOMAHAWK (138, February). "Death Council", a town isolates itself from the world because a gold vein is discovered. Reprints are "Black Couger", a Tomahawk story by Frank Frazetta from number 57; and Hoppalong Cassidy in "Secret Of Sherrif Topper" now retitled Monty West, Sherrif in "Four Footed Sherrif", art by Gil Kane. Plus a Fred Ray story of the Civil War entitled "Lost Battle". On sale on or about November 9.

OUR FIGHTING FORCES (135, February). The Losers must face "The Death Of Captain Storm" this issue. On sale on or about November 9.

MISTER MIRACLE (6, February). Mr. Miracle signs up with a publicity agent for a tour and then Darkseid's troopersclaim Big Barda! And one of those troopers is Desaad's sister! Read"the Funky Flashman". This issue's Boy Commandos reprint pits them against "Agent X". Also starring Sandman and the Newsboy Legion. On sale on or about November 11. (Cover reproduced on page 2)

SUPERMAN (247, January). Elliot Maggin wrote this issue's lead story -- "Must There Be A Superman?" which guest-stars the Guardians Of the Universe. A new series begins in this issue--The Private Life Of Clark Kent. The title of the first story is "When On Earth..." and is written by O'Neil. The reprint filler in this issue stars the Superman Of 2965 in "Muto, the Monarch Of Menace". On sale on or about November 11.

YOUNG ROMANCE (178, January). On sale on or about November 11.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (198, January). Contents: "Two Hours To Live" a 12-pg. story written by Jack Oleck with art by Sekowsky and Cardy. "He Adopted A Martian Boy", a reprint. "Brief Visit", a 4-pager by Glanzman. "The Day Of The Demon" with story by Archie Goodwin and art by Sekowsky and Carl Anderson. "The Thing In The Telescope", a 6-page Mort Meskin reprint. On sale on or about November 16.

TEEN TITANS (37, February). The full length new story is "Scourge Of The Skeletal Riders" with art by Tuska and Cardy. The reprint is "Superboy Meets The Young Green Arrow" from Adventure 258. On sale on or about November 16.

DARK MANSION OF FORBIDDEN LOVE (3, February). On sale on or about November 16.

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JIMMY OLSEN (145, January). "Brigadoom", the second part of three stories featuring Jimmy in Scotland. This issue they invade the Evil Factory. The reprint filler this issue is "Paradise Prision" starring the Newsboy Legion in a tale involving a grafter who becomes the warden of reformatory who starves his kids. On sale on or about November 18.

WEIRD WAR TALES (3, February). Is a special issue with stories relating to time and time travel. The only original material in this issue (I think) is "The Pool", a very special story drawn by Heath. On sale on or about November 18.

YOUNG LOVE (91, January). On sale on or about November 18.

GIRLS' LOVE STORIES (165, January); On sale on or about November 23.

LOIS LANE (118, January). Lois stars in "Edge Of Darkness", the first of two issues (each complete) that begin the story of the escape of Morgan Edge from Morgan Edge! The secret? The one we've been seing is a clone of Darkseid. The Thorn stars in "Hand Of Death", the conclusion of Rose's Mexican vacation two-parter. Art on this strip is by Buckler and Giordano. The reprint is a Dr. Pat story by Infantino. The title is "Dr. Pat's First Love". Dr. Pat overcomes primative prejeduice to build a hospital in the backwoods. On sale on or about November 23.

THE UNEXPECTED (131, January). The contents of this issue are: "Run For Your Death", "If Time Runs Out", "The Upside-Down World Of Harry Updike", "Beast Of Bristol" (reprint), and "Ue Cruised Into The Supernatural" (reprint). On sale on or about November 23.

STRANGE ADVENTURES (234, February). Adam Strange stars in "The Spaceman Who Fought Himself" from Mystery In Space 74. The Star Rovers in "Where Is The Paradise Of Space?".

Plus "The Human Icicle" and "The World That Vanished". On sale on or about November 25.

SUPERBOY (181, January). "Menace Of The Mysterious Voyager" and "Super-marriage Or Super-flop?" are this issue's Superboy stories. The reprint is "The Six-Legged Legionnaire" starring Lana Lang and the Legion Of Super-Heroes. On sale on or about November 25.

HEART THROBS (137, January). On sale on or about November 25.

ACTION COMICS (408, January). Superman in "The Hero Superman Doomed To Die". Clark Kent in "Shocking Secret Of Super X", a third identity story. The reprint is not a Metamorpho story as I earlier reported but is "The Atom's Phantom Double". On sale on or about November 30.

ADVENTURE COMICS (414, January). The prize story of this issue is "Vortex", an 8-page story by Wein and Oskner which features a costume villain and a new look in art. Zatanna's second story is entitled "Tower Of The Dead" (7-pages). The reprint is "The Return Of The Man With Animals Powers" (art by Kane if I rember correctly). Plus "The Kidnapping", a Supergirl story drawn by Oskner some time before "Vortex" which concludes the saga of Judy, the girl from outer space who was introduced in Adventure 410. On sale on or about November 30.

DETECTIVE COMICS (419, January). Batman in "Secret Of The Slaying Statues" written by O'Neil. The Batgirl story is the conclusion of last issue's story and is titled--"Long Live The Kingpin!" Reprints are Roy Raymond in a story about Ben Franklin and a story from Gangbusters entitled "Human Target". On sale on or about November 30.

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OMMISIONS & LAST MINUTE NEWS:

Weird War Tales 3: "Sea Creature", "The Pool", "The Cloud That Went To War" (reprint), "Pilot For A Sub" (reprint), "A Soldier's Statue" (reprint), and "I've Been Here Before".

DC Super-Spectacular-Out Army At War "The Rock", a pre-series Rock story from when he just joined the Army. "Broken Arm" starring Johnny Cloud. "Death Of A PT Boat" starring Capt Storm. "Tank For Sarge" with Gunner & Sarge. "The Wounded Won't Wait" starring the Haunted Tank and with Sgt Rock. Plus two short stories a War Diary, and pin-up pages. Out in December.

Len Wein will take over writing the Supergirl strip with Adventure 418.

There is another Frazetta-Shining Knight reprint coming up. This time it's in Adventure Comics.

Tony DiZuniga filled in on the artistic chores for Phantom Stranger 16.

==========

Fanzine Review

Paragon Illustrated is a nice mag. The cost of number 3 was $1 but in this era of $5 zines that's pretty good. You get fact (Greim on Dr. Fate), ama-strips (Shade, Girl from LSD) and fiction pieces. I have no room for detail but get it from Wm.Black, 701 Shell St, Talahassee Fla.

Marvel Comics Group

Marvel is beginning a new era of sword & sorcery. Conan may have been made bi-monthly (permenantly) but there are a pack of new stories and features coming up. To name them...

KING KULL returns! He will be appearing in the pages of Monsters On The Prowl. The new series will begin in early 1972 with a two-part story that is really the material intended for Kull 3, broken up into 2 ten-page segments. Script will be by Roy Thomas, art by the Severins.

SOLOMON KANE comes to one of Marvel's monster books in 1972 also. The first story planned is an adaptation of Howard's "Skulls And Stars" by Thomas. The artistic chores will probably be handled by Gene Colan with inks by Alan Weiss.

WARRIOR OF MARS is the title of the new feature in Creatures On The Loose. This series, slated to begin in December, is based on a 1905 novel which may have influenced Burroughs enormously. The novel is available in a 1965 Ace books edition under the title "Gulliver Of Mars". It will be 10 pages long with art by Gil Kane and Bill Everett.

THE BEAST, former member of The X-Men turns up in the 11th issue of Amazing Adventures. He will be the only feature in the book, thus consigning The Inhumans to oblivion. Script for the first issue is by Gerry Conway, art by Tom Sutton and Syd Shores.

Neal Adams is no longer doing any work for Marvel. Avengers 96 is the last issue he drew.

Barry Smith is taking over The Avengers on a permenant basis beginning with the three-part story in 97-99. He may quit Conan though after number 15. He feels that it is too time consuming.

Ka-Zar is going through an artistical merry-go-round also. Number 10 (on sale in November) is a fill-in issue drawn by Smith, 11 is an origin issue drawn by Gil Kane, and hopefully John Buscema will take over the artistic chores regularly with number 12.

The reason why the Marvel annuals are no longer listed in the indicia is that they are going to be of a size as yet undecided on. Therefore Marvel doen't want to accept subscriptions for them. Annuals will come out though in 72.

If there is a Conan annual in 72 (and there may or may not be one) it will contain Berni Wrightson's Kull story, reshot from other stats and recolored, some unpublished Smith pin-ups of Conan, and other, as yet uncertain, material.

All of Marvel's books will be 20¢ from now on. This includes the three try-out books and Dracula. I don't think it includes the reprint mags though.

Marvel Premiere 1 is a 32 page book but it contains a 27 page story! The book was planned as a 48 pager then cut back but the story wasn't cut. Beginning with number 2 the book will feature a lead story of Warlock and a very short Yellow Claw reprint.

Hercules will be appearing in some issues of The Avengers soon.

And besides all of the above goodies Marvel is planning to bring out either 3 or 4 new books next year. Sales have been good and the line is expanding. I don't know details yet, maybe next month.

Sgt. Fury has been restored to a monthly status and there will be original material in the book more often. After a two-pater split in two by a reprint the book will be all new for a while.

National Lampoon

The November National Lampoon will feature a story drawn by Neal Adams entitled "Dragula", about a homosexual vampire whose bite turns males into homosexuals. The story is 9 pages and Adams did the pencils & inks. Script by Mike O'Donnahue. The cover is by Frank Frazetta and depicts Dragula on a roof with a girl. Oh yes, the story is in black & white and halftones.

==========

Newsleads are appreciated. And, if you have a question about any item in Etc. or a current comic let me know. I'll try to answer it.

ASTONISHING TALES (10, February). Ka-Zar in "To End In Flame", a full-length story drawn by Barry Smith which concludes the story of World War 2 within the Savage Land that was begun in number 8.

THE AVENGERS (96, February). "A Day Of Reckoning" starring The Avengers and Capt Marvel in the final part of the eight-issue Kree series plot. This is the last Adams-illustrated issue.

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON (145, February). "Cap's Revenge" pits him against the hordes of Hydra.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (14, February). Announcing...The arrival of Elric! In a two-part story plotted by Michael Moorcock then adapted by Roy Thomas. Art by Smith.

DAREDEVIL (84, February). The Black Widow and Daredevil in "The Secret Revealed".

DRACULA (1, February). At long last! The art is by Gene Colan and the star is the original vampire.

FANTASTIC FOUR (119, February). They say that no news is good news so this issue must be a winner. No info, people, sorry.

THE HULK (147, February). Once again I'm forced to say that I have no info.

MARVEL PREMIERE (1, February). The official title of the strip is Warlock but we all know the star as Him from the Fantastic Four and Thor. Much of the story is told in flash-back sequences but the new plot involves our old friend The High Evolutionary and his mortal foe--Super-beast (you know, the wolf-man). The story is 27 pages long, the book is 20¢. Art by Kane & Adkins.

MILLIE THE MODEL (194, February).

MONSTERS ON THE PROWL (15, February). The fun starts next issue.

OUR LOVE STORY (15, February).

RAWHIDE KID (96, February).

SGT. FURY & HIS HOWELING COMMANDOS (95, February). I believe "The Grandeur That Was Greece" from number 33 is reprinted in this issue.

SPIDER-MAN (105, February). Stan Lee Strikes! The return of the old style of standard Spidey plots starts in this issue.

SUB-MARINER (46, February). "A Death For A Death". Namor and Sting-Ray vs. Llyra and the Tiger Shark for the life of Capt. McKenzie.

THOR (196, February). Odin and the old guard of Asgard take on Mangog "When Asgard Ends".

WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS (8, February). This book goes all reprint with this issue. Characters featured are the Outlaw Kid, the Apache Kid, and the Black Rider.

WESTERN KID (2, February).

THE X-MEN (74, February). "Holocaust" concludes the story of El Tigre. Reprinted from number 26.

All of the above Marvels are 32 page, 20¢ books except the Western Gunfighters which is a 48 page, 25¢ issue.

==========

NOTICE TO ALL FANZINE EDITORS!!!!!!!

To have your fanzine displayed on a sales table in Creation (the Nov. 27-28 NY Con) is easier done than said.

The cost (if you bring it to the New Yorker) is only $2. And,if you can't be anywhere near NY over Thanksgiving weekend you can send a batch to me along with a check for $3 and I'll bring it to the table myself (of course you have to pay return postage).

All proceeds will be mailed to yo promptly (this is also a public apology for the delays after Seuls con sales).

So...the deadline for sending me y zine is about November 22. Checks for the fee should be here as soon as possible. Thanks.

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1971 GOETHE AWARDS-NOMINATING BALLOT

What? Awards for 71 in the comic art field. Eligibility includes prozines, fanzines, or undergrounds published in 71. Anything is eligable-but it must be based on 71 work. Reprints are eligable.
When? Nominating ballots (this) must be mailed by 2/1/72 (Final ballot by 6/1/72)
What form? This is the ballot. Vote as indicated.
What voters? Any fan can vote on both ballots. If you don't feel qualified to vote on a specific item just leave it blank.
What details? Return this ballot to: 71 Gothe Awards, Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060. This is the second year of the Gothe Awards. Final results will be announced at the NYComiCon (July 4 weekend) and in newszines (including ETC/TCR) following. You may use a facsimilie form.

==========

(1) Favorite Pro Artist (Can be pencils or inks or both. You can even vote for your favorite colorist): _____

(2) Favorite Pro Writer: _____

(3) Favorite Pro Editor: _____

(4) Favorite Pro Comic-Book (Any kind; it can be romance, funny animal, etc. Black and white or color. Definition of "Pro" is national distribution thus putting competion on a relatively equal basis. Vote for title, not for issue number.): _____

(5) Favorite Underground Comic (This is any comic art which doesn't appear on the newsstands; it can apply to fanzines with mostly comic art or "underground comix" or mail order comic art from pros.)

_____

(6) Favorite Comic-Book Story (Any length as long as it appears in one comic book. Only one installment from a serial would be eligable. It may be from the undergrounders. VOTE FOR TWO): _____

_____

(7) Favorite Comic-Book Character (This can be a member of a group, a solo hero, or even a supporting character): _____

(8) Favorite Fanzine (The all-comics zines eligable for No.5 are not eligable. Vote for fanzine title, not issue number. VOTE FOR TWO):

_____

_____

(9) Favorite Fan Writer: _____

(10) Favorite Fan Artist: _____

Please write or print or type legibly. Sign on this line _____ and type your name under your signature or print it.

Be sure to return this nominating ballot by February 1, 1972 to the address below:

1971 Goethe Awards
Don & Maggie Thompson
8786 Hendricks Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Fandom Forum: Canadian Fandom by Lawrence Severs

When you hear the word fanzine you generally think of the United States, right? Of course you know that there is French fandom, Spanish fandom, and so forth that reprint the more common American strips in their language. But what is Canadian fandom? It doesn't reprint the American strips (at least not in bulk). So it is a new branch of fandom and a new spark of life in the field which will emit new ideas and life into the whole graphic arts field.

It is similar to American fandom yet it is different. When Savage Tales came out Americans got it but Canadians didn't. I'm sure that at least half of Canadian fandom was ready to storm the distributors office and I don't think that they were wrong.

But the most important thing that happened to Canadian fandom occured in the days of the War. We had been reading the comics and then all of the sudden came the war and the cut-off of the American comics. Sure, comics were smuggled in across the borders, but a more important thing happened, the Canadian comics came to life. They were ordinary comics without the color but they were based on Canadians. Eventually they faded back to where they came from. Still, this is one of the factors, the most important one that made Canadian fandom different.

We also had rubber plates sent to Canada back during those great EC days. Apparently, Mr. Gaines found out it would cost too much to ship the EC's here so the plates were sent instead and thus the Canadian ECs were born!

Now there are no comics published here. I believe that there is a law against it but I'm not sure. Instead we have Fuddle Duddle. What is it? Well, it could be considered a comic but it is like a magazine and a comic put together. It consists of take-offs and satires on our Prime Minister and his wife.

There is still more to Canadian Fandom it has a bit of French influence to it. It is possible to get Pilote here. It is a very good French magazine which is about 60 pages in length and features strips and so forth. Charlie is another magazine. It reprints strips, undergrounds, and even ECs (in French). Some of these issues are really a nice addition to anyone's collection.

Fanzines are being published here now also. There are even possibilities of cons. American fandom has given many ideas to us in Canada while we were helping it move along. But even with this sharing of ideas no matter what anyone says no one will ever convince me that American fandom is like Canadian fandom.

==========

ETC.

Everything is happening next issue so be sure to renew your sub in time. A plug? Nope. An expression of frustration that many things that were promised for this issue have been postponed. There is a strong possibility that next issue will be a 16-pager and I can practically guarantee a 14-page issue of ETCETERA/THE COMIC READER. Details of next issue are on page 12 as usual.

This issue contains the nominating ballot for the 71 Gothe Awards. I strongly advise that you use it. This is fandom's only award set-up and it deserves your support.

The usual thanks to my pro sources for the news this issue.

Oh yes. Ad space is nowavailable in ETC/TCR. I'll take full page & half page ads (submit camera ready using 8.5 x 11 as full page size) for $7.50 and $3.50 respectively. Remember my circulation will be between 600 and 800 next issue. Ads will not affect the number of news pages either. There will still be about 11 pages of content each issue (minimum). Speaking of ads my printer has an ad in this issue. He does do zines by mail and he has a price list which covers all sizes and print runs. If you're thinking of changing he's worth a try.

Peace.

REVIEWS:

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA 94. "Where Strikes Demonfang?" inspired contradictory reactions in me. Script-wise it was the best story we have been treated to in the JLA book for some time. However, it was also the poorest treatment of Deadman ever. A new DC reader could not possibly have understood the ideas behind Deadman. This, needless to say, irritated me. How can Deadman show an effect on the sales of any book sufficently to cause him to be granted his own strip if the average reader sees him only as an inexplicable walk-on character? Also I disagree with the popular law that says--Only Neal Adams may draw Deadman and the Sensei. Sooner or later if Deadman is to be brought back on a regular basis that rule will have to be shattered. Why not now? And then we can enter the realm of Rama Kushna again, to once more see the world through the eyes of the only ghost in comics.

Note to Julie Schwartz: Justice League Of America Number 100, besides being a numerically special issue, also is the tenth annual Justice League-Justice Society classic. So, start cooking up your surprises now. Hey, how about throwing in The Seven Soldiers Of Victory too. Now that would be an anniversary classic!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN 12. I have a pet theory about how comic books would be improved by the sole use of black & white for some artists and some strips and this issue's lead story, "The Dweller In The Dark", is a good piece of evidence. Placed in Savage Tales 2, as was originally planned, it would have been beautiful. Put in a regular 4-color book it looked too dark, too crowded, and, if this is possible, too detailled. There is more evidence for this theory in Big Barda (very pleasant in the b/w originals, yet rather heavy and unsexy in the finished product) and in the pencilled pages of the Green Arrow story in GL/GA 87 (which lose something in the process of coloring) and, most probably, in the works of some other artists. Back to Conan, however. The scripting of "Dweller" was good, a typical example of the troubles that Conan will have during his long career with royal women.

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT 2 on WEREWOLF BY NIGHT. The plot of this story was old and time honored and the massed writing talents of Roy and Jean Thomas and Gerry Conway did it justice. And then the art. Mike Ploog has learned a lot from Eisner, perhaps enough to be considered a successor to the special angle shots and night scenes that make certain features. I feel sure that we will hear a lot more of that name in the future and, I, for one, am waiting.

SUPERGIRL under Orlando. Mike Sekowsky destroyed all fragments of the Superman family continuity in the Supergirl strip. Now, slowly, Joe Orlando is bringing them back. Supergirl's powers no longer fade out just at the moment of danger. Now she is mighty once again. Her costume is set, permenantly (the one shown in the corner circle). The old logo of Adventure Comics is back, along with the accent on adventure, not on a rather strange mixture of two female arch foes. Tracey Thompson has been replaced by Zatanna as a back feature. The artistic quality of the strip has improved along with the scripting. Perhaps it would be apt to title the last few issues of Adventure/Supergirl "A Return To Glory" also.

==========

SHOULD ETCETERA HAVE A LETTERCOLUMN? Several of my subscribers feel that I should have a lettercol in Etcetera. I don't feel too strongly either way so I leave it up to you. I'll print letters of interest but only if they go beyond the range of "Etc 8 was good because of its news coverage" et al. Guest comic reviews are also welcome. And, as always, Fandom Forum is open to any one with something to say. Okay fen, start contributing!

==========

Next issue Paul Hugli takes over the Reviews column and he has promised to include a review (?) of the Witchcraft & Sorcery con. Watch for it.

==========

REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE 1971 GOETHE AWARDS! NOMINATING BALLOT IS IN THIS ISSUE ON PAGE 8! USE IT!

Of all the currently syndicated newspaper strips I'm familiar with, the strip by Lawrence and Longaron, Friday Foster, seems the best of them all. What?? it's just about a black girl assisting a white fashion photographer--how can that be good? Well, does any other comic strip look as relaxed or calm within the format?

It's true that each medium of expression carries its own limitations as to what it can do best and least well. These distinguishing features create for each medium a unique vantage point on how people live in and deal with society. Each different interpertation brings to light different problems of our existence. These philosophic problems are directly related to the technical restrictions each medium puts on representing people and their relationships. For example, theatre allows the best field for dealing with man's feeling that he is one soul in a big uncaring world because physically the actor performs out in front of large empty spaces. The principle technical restriction in comic strips resembles that of television: the lined TV screen, because of the narrow range of contrasting blacks and whites, precludes a very potent reality. With the comic strip, the uniformly small panels shy away from broad effects like strong emotions, deep space perspective, dramatic confrontation between characters, and full-fledged three dimensionality of personality or the world, simply because the largest area of black, white, or color available is never that large. There is too little room.

This makes comic strips no less an art. The point of view most fitting its shallow spaces, sensuous textures, everyday detail, personable figure scale, and conventional framing is of our ordinary way of life. Since strips can and do do take on this vp. they have a responsability to attempt solving the problems we face there. Most important to me is the situation surrounding us of an unordered conglomeration of details and impressions that somehow we must make sense from. Without continuity we feel our individuality soaked out wherever our attention takes us till we are nothing. Without identity there is no self respect which is absolutely necessary for cooperation with others.

The people in Friday Foster thrive amidst this flux of pattern and motion looking calm and composed. Never taking too seriously so that they lose their self-control. This seems to be good advice. Personally I'm comforted by this suggestion on how to coexist peacably with the conglomeration. The drawing is energetic and alive, the spotting isn't too slick or cute, but gives abrupt summaries about what you want to know, the composition demands little effort to appreciate, and the dialogue is what people say to each other without a lot of confusing connotations a la Caniff. But without printed examples it would be hard to go on.

No other strip has this comforting quality. The other soapers (Mary Worth, Apt. 3-G, Kerry Drake, et al) are hackneyed in the extreme offering little continuity to their detail beyond a slick cute rendering rather than strong story lines that thread the detail in FF into cohesive units. On Stage, while rating high in my book, projects the very feeling of suffering that comic strips should be trying to solve. This is mostly because Leonard Star is a strong willed intelligent individual and tho for some time his strip had the best answers now he seems to feel confined to the strip; to the world. The agitated restlessness and brooding closeups of his characters communicate a claustrophobic feeling that is precisely what comic strips should be offering a way out of.

The current crop of humor strips have little to offer us even if they realise that humor is based on what we suffer from. None of them have enough imagination to rise above the level of masochistic defeatism. Ha ha. The Invisable Tribe, strip within the strip of Dick Tracy originally drawn by five men,

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RADAR IN THE VOID continued

Chet, Al, Hap, Ray, and Ric is Gould's accurate parody on the mass produced, humorless, non-work that characterizes humor strips today.

Tho Dick Tracy does offer a personality for coping with the evils of today I'm waiting for a more considered heroic approach to support. Now, Friday Foster is doing the best job answering the problems that comic strips should be dealing with.

P.S. A move that would help the state of newspaper syndicate's comic pages a lot would be for them to capitalize on the nostalgia boom and reprint older strips that are good. Many of the adventure strips would go over well. The reason that they have not done this already may be because of a "no reprint" agreement with the Cartoonists Society. Anyone know for sure?

Here's a letter from John McGeehan:

I'm sorry, but I won't be doing a listing after all. The fans who want zine reviews can or do get them from the review zine entitled GEORGE which comes out monthly and covers many zines in all fields in depth & in complete detail. Fans want the zines rated and unrated listings are of little interest to them. That is why the first one I did for K-A was also the last one. I suggest that ETC can stay the info zine and GEORGE can stay the review one.

--Okay, John, when the original dean of zines offers advice I'll take it. Henceforth ETC will only review a couple of zines each month, the number varying with space. & order GEORGE from: Second Suicide Publications, 1632 Hollenbeck Road No. 7, Sunnyvale, Ca. 94087. The price is 10 for $1 but please do not order if you can read a friends copy. They lose money on each copy.

NEXT ISSUE: Etcetera combines with The Comic Reader next issue. Contents will hopefully include: the first Duffy's Tavern in Etc, an article by Tony Isabella, plus the usual news, checklist of upcoming comics, reviews, etcetera. And it'll be in the mails on or about November 24.

ETCETERA 9
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